

R. Saint George, Parish of Hanover Square

C A S E

OF THE

PARISHIONERS of ST. GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE.

A COMMITTEE of the INHABITANT PARISHIONERS has been appointed at a General Meeting, held for the Purpose of enquiring into the new Mode of assessing the Rate for the Relief of the Poor, adopted by the Select Vestry, they discovered,

THAT, MARCH 6th, 1784, the Select Vestry, "RESOLVED that, according to the Calculations this Day laid before us, 10,097 Cubical Feet being taken as the Criterion of One Pound, the Amount of the Rates of the Four In-Wards of this Parish, at Three Shillings in the Pound, will be £11,000 exactly, the Sum raised by the present Rate.—RESOLVED, that such Part of the Out-Ward as is laid out in Building, being calculated in the same manner, ought to be so rated; and every other Part of the said Out-Ward ought to be rated as in the Rate for the current Year."

By Means of which RESOLUTIONS, and at a very considerable Expence, a Rate was formed at once illegal, partial, oppressive, and burthenfome; it affected to be Four-pence in the Pound lower than the old Rate — while it raised a larger Sum of Money, than ever was raised in the Parish before, and oppressed the Occupiers of Work-shops, Warehouses, Riding-houses, and other large Buildings.

On April 14, 1787, the Committee obtained the Order of Sessions for quashing the Rate made in Consequence of the above Resolution.



On

On November 30th, 1787, the Committee instituted an Appeal against a second Rate, which Appeal was withdrawn, conditionally, that the Select Vestry should accelerate obtaining the Judgment of the Court of King's Bench, upon the Defence set up by them, **THAT NO APPEAL LAY AGAINST THEIR ACCOUNTS;** which Defence the Court reprobated in the most decisive Terms.

The Objections to the Poor's Account for the Years 1786, 1787, which stands for hearing at the next Quarter-Sessions, in Part occasioned by the extraordinary Resolutions of the Select Vestry, amount to £1412 35 10d.

There are Objections to the Poor Accounts for the succeeding Year, which are equally objectionable, amounting to £850; against which, it was the Intention of the Committee to have instituted an Appeal.

But the Select Vestry have Leave to bring in a Bill to defeat these Appeals, and to extend their Power to a very alarming degree! The Inhabitants petition, to be heard by Council, against the passing of such Bill into Law; they are particularly anxious to prevent the establishment of a Precedent for laying the Poores Rate, by cubing the Buildings, which, they conceive, the intended Bill will do, instead of rating by annual Value as the Old Law directs; and the more so, as the Poor Rate is the Foundation for laying the other Rates and Taxes in the Parish, already increased to the enormous Sum of £40,000 per Annum, and upwards.

When the Committee opposed a late Bill of Indemnity brought in by the Select Vestry, they found a very thin Attendance of the House, but a very large Attendance of such Members as are of the Vestry, of which there are a great Number: But, in the present Instance, the Committee have the utmost Assurance of Success.

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When the established Poor Laws of the Country are allowed to operate, so as to give every Contributor to the Support of the Poor the Means of enquiring how his Money is levied and laid out, so long, the Question might remain, *as it has been affectedly termed*, a Question between the Gentlemen and Tradesmen of the Parish; the Contest might be left with the industrious Mechanic, who, feeling for his Family, the loss of every Shilling unnecessarily expended, is likely to support it with sufficient Zeal: but should the intended Bill pass, every Parishioner may be taxed excessively, without Representation or Appeal.

The Parish has been in the Hands of a Select Vestry about 60 Years, in which Time the amount of the Money raised by the Poor Rate has increased from four to fifteen Thousand a Year.



Subscriptions received by Mr. CLARK, Treasurer to the Committee of Parishioners, Little Grosvenor Street.

CASE

OF THE

PARISHIONERS

OF

St. GEORGE,

HANOVER SQUARE.

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When the established Poor Law of the Country are allowed to operate, so as to give every Parishioner to the support of the Poor the Means of obtaining the Money is found out.

A Question between the Collector and the Parishioner, the Collector might be left with the Parishioner, who being for himself, the loss of any thing more than what is needed is not to be regretted, but should be improved, without the Parishioner being any more troubled.

For the Parishioner has been the Means of a Poor Law, which has been the Means of the Money being paid by the Poor Law has been found out to be the same as the Poor Law.

Subscription received by Mr. CHARLES T. to the Committee of Parishioners, Little Green, or thereabouts.